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General and complete disarmament: illicit traffic in small arms

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Illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/54 R of 1 December 1999,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report,[1]

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking, illicit diamond trade, terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components

[1] A/55/323.

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and ammunition, in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Convinced of the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches,

Welcoming in this regard the decision by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to convene an African Ministerial Conference on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bamako, Mali during November 2000; the establishment of the Consultative Committee by the States Parties of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials; the decision by the Council of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to conclude its negotiations on a Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials in the SADC Region; the decision by the States members of the Economic Community of West African States to implement their agreement on a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa; and the adoption of the European Union Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms and the other initiatives undertaken, such as the Joint Action on Small Arms that has been endorsed by several Member States not members of the European Union,

Noting in this regard the commitments made by the Foreign Ministers of the Group of Eight (G-8) Industrialized Countries contained in the Miyazaki Initiatives for Conflict Prevention; the Foreign Ministers of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council; the members of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe in its Joint Declaration on Responsible Arms Transfers; the members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe at the Istanbul Summit; the members of the South Pacific Forum in the Nadi Framework of principles; and the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa,

Noting further that several regional and subregional workshops, seminars and conferences were held and that individual States have taken initiatives to promote measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons,

Welcoming the assistance provided by States in support of bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives aimed at addressing illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and in this regard also *welcoming* the establishment of the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund for Support to Prevention and Reduction of the Proliferation of Small Arms, the United Nations Trust Fund for the Consolidation of Peace through Practical Disarmament Measures and the United Nations Global and Regional Disarmament Trust Fund,

Welcoming further the Preparatory Process for the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, bearing in mind the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on Small Arms,[2] prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Group of

[2] A/54/258.

Governmental Experts on Small Arms, as well as the views of Member States[3] on the objectives, scope, agenda, dates and venue of the Conference,

Recalling the Security Council's Presidential Statement of 24 September 1999[4] and its request to the Secretary-General to develop, with the assistance of technical experts and the support of Member States, a reference manual for use in the field on ecologically safe methods of weapons, ammunition and explosives destruction in order to better enable Member States to ensure the disposal of weapons, ammunition and explosives voluntarily surrendered by civilians or retrieved from former combatants,

Considering that the United Nations could through a coordinated approach collect, share and disseminate information to Member States on useful and successful practices to prevent the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and mindful of the role of the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in this regard,

Recalling that the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, held workshops on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms held in Lomé, Togo and Lima, Peru, during 1999, and *noting with appreciation* the Jakarta Regional Seminar held on 3 and 4 May 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Security in Asia and the Pacific,

Mindful of the impact of surplus small arms and light weapons on the illicit trade in these weapons, and *welcoming* practical measures undertaken by States to destroy surplus weapons and confiscated or collected weapons, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report on small arms,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by States in a position to do so, and to provide the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects with information on the magnitude and scope of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations therein;

2. *Encourages* States to promote regional and subregional initiatives and requests the Secretary-General, within available financial resources, and also States in a position to do so, to assist States taking such initiatives to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in affected regions, and *invites* the Secretary-General to utilize these initiatives as part of his consultations;

3. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to take appropriate national measures to destroy surplus, confiscated or collected small arms and light weapons, and to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on types and quantities of arms destroyed as well as the methods of their destruction, and *requests* the Secretary-General to annually circulate this information to all States;

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[3] A/54/260 and Add.1-3.

[4] S/PRST/1999/28.

4. *Invites* States in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in support of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including assistance in response to requests by States to collect and destroy surplus, confiscated or collected small arms and light weapons;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide advisory and financial assistance, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by States in a position to do so, in response to requests by States, in support of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including assistance to collect and destroy surplus, confiscated or collected small arms and light weapons;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of this resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session an item entitled "Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons".